

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

**SPECIAL SESSION
May 18, 2004**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened in Special Session at 11:00 A.M., May 18, 2004, at Maricopa Integrated Health System's Comprehensive Healthcare Center, 2525 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Max Wilson, Vice-Chairman, District 4, Fulton Brock, District 1, and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Absent: Andrew Kunasek, Chairman, District 3; and Don Stapley, District 2. Also present: Norma Risch, Deputy Clerk of the Board and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney.

REACH OUT AND READ (ROR) ARIZONA

Item: Presentation regarding Reach Out and Read (ROR) Arizona to highlight the importance of early literacy and to celebrate Scholastic Book Club's donation of 50,000 new children's books to children growing up in poverty through ROR programs in Arizona. (ADM600)

Ted Shaw, Chief Executive Office, Maricopa Integrated Health System, opened the ceremonies and introduced Board Members Wilson, Wilcox, and Brock.

Mr. Shaw stated that Maricopa Integrated Health System has been participating in the ROR program for over five years, and pleased to be a part of the ROR Program. Mr. Shaw thanked Southwest Human Development for having the foresight and initiative to bring ROR to Arizona seven years ago, and in that short period of time, Southwest has expanded ROR to 23 low-income pediatric clinics throughout the county, including all of the county health clinics. Mr. Shaw commented that reading to a child seems as natural a part of development as learning to walk, and research shows that simply reading to babies and children on a regular basis can have a significant impact on literacy, learning, and school readiness.

Supervisor Wilcox commented on the ROR program receiving the generous gift from Scholastic Book Clubs. She stated the importance of reading and compared the relationship of literacy with public health. She also stated that for every \$1.00 spent on early education there would be an \$8.00 savings in the future.

Supervisor Wilcox then acknowledged and introduced Governor Janet Napolitano.

Governor Napolitano commented on the importance of reading to young children at early stages of their lives and thanked the staff for including her in the program. She also thanked the Scholastic Book Club for their donation of new children's books throughout the State of Arizona. The Governor proceeded to read "How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight" to a group of 15-20 five year olds.

Dr. Grace Caputo, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director for the ROR Arizona Coalition, stated that the ROR Arizona Coalition strives to be a driving force in the community for early literacy. Scholastic Book Club donated 50,000 books for distribution to the 45 ROR sites throughout the state, and through the ClassroomsCare Program, which donated 100 books for every 100 read by children in participating classrooms. Scholastic donated 2 million books nationally to children in need. The books were distributed through charity partners, including ROR. Dr. Caputo commented that one of the reasons that ROR is so effective is because it builds on the trust that parents develop with their children's pediatric health care providers, allowing them to work together to promote all areas of their children's health development. Dr. Caputo also stated that ROR is a simple, yet highly effective concept, a program that targets children growing up in poverty and without books, and features three key elements: volunteers read with children in pediatric clinic waiting areas; pediatricians educate parents about the importance of

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reading with their children every day; and every child from the age of six-months to five-years receives a new book to take home and keep when they come in for a well-child check-up.

Supervisors Wilcox, Wilson, and Brock proceeded to sit with a small group of children and read several children books.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Max W. Wilson, Vice-Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Norma Risch, Deputy Clerk of the Board